Observers at LoC

1790. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any army or security personnel's delegation of 15 countries including America, United Kingdom and European countries has visited Line of Control for observing Pakistan's role to help terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir during the month of September, 2003; and

(b) if so, the reaction/response of the said delegation on Pakistan's role in terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) A visit was arranged for the Defence Attaches from 19 countries, stationed in New Delhi, to forward areas in the State of Jammu and Kashmir on September 29,2003. During the visit, they were also shown weapons and equipment captured from terrorists.

(b) They thanked the Indian Army for organising the visit that enabled them to gain a first hand perspective of the actual ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It was clear to those who were taken on this visit that infiltration took place from across the LoC and infiltrators received weapons training and other support from Pakistan.

Kolkata-Nepal Rail Service

1791. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with the Government of Nepal regarding introduction of Kolkata International Rail Service from Nepal *via* Raxual-Virganj in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether all formalities in this respect have been finalised;

(c) if so, the detail thereof; and

(d) by when the said agreement is likely to be implemented?